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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/672,988	09/25/2003	Chien Frank	LYP3012	1091

7590 07/26/2004

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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

15

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/672,988		FRANK, CHIEN	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Alexander D Gilman		2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09/29/03 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
 - 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maejima et al.

With regard to claim 1, Maejima et al (US 5,122,077) disclose a layered interface device comprising an interface box (2) and a supporter (4, 5) ,

the supporter includes at least one arm; the arm has a first and a second connecting portion'; the first connecting portion is connected to the interface box; the second connecting portion is connected to a supporter (5') of another interface box

With regard to claim 2, Maejima et al disclose the second connecting portion of the supporter has a protrusion; an interior of the protrusion has a receiving chamber; another protrusion (5) of another supporter is inserted into the receiving chamber of the protrusion.

Claims 1, 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Evans.

With regard to claim 1, Evans (US 6,731,514) discloses a layered interface device comprising an interface box (6) and a supporter (8) ,

the supporter includes at least one arm; the arm has a first and a second connecting portion'; the first connecting portion is connected to the interface box; the second connecting portion is connected to a supporter (5') of another interface box

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With regard to claim 2, Evans discloses (Fig. 2) the second connecting portion of the supporter has a protrusion; an interior of the protrusion has a receiving chamber; another protrusion of another supporter is inserted into the receiving chamber of the protrusion.

Claims 1, 2, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yu.

With regard to claim 1, Yu (US 6,714,417) disclose a layered interface device comprising an interface box (102, Fig. 2) and a supporter (8),

the supporter includes at least one arm; the arm has a first and a second connecting portion; the first connecting portion (10) is connected to the interface box; the second connecting portion (36) is connected to a supporter (8) of another interface box.

With regard to claim 2, Yu discloses (Fig. 6) that the second connecting portion (30) of the supporter has a protrusion; an interior of the protrusion has a receiving chamber; another protrusion of another supporter is inserted into the receiving chamber of the protrusion.

With regard to claim 4, Yu discloses that the arm (8) has at least one notch (col. 5, lines 9-12) so that connecting wires connected to the interface box pass through the notch to be connected to external devices.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the an outer surface of the protrusion being installed with a guide groove and the receiving chamber of the protrusion has a track at a position with respect to the guide groove.

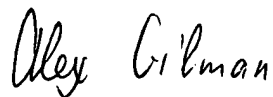
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

07/23/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Gilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER